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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
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REPLY TO ATTENTION OF:
5RA-14

Honorable Jim Edgar
Governor of Illinois
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Edgar:

Enclosed is a copy of a report which will be released tomorrow by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Office of Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The report is the product of a joint USEPA-OSHA task force that examined compliance by a sample of hazardous waste incinerators with certain worker health and safety requirements under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

The Task Force conducted inspections of 29 hazardous waste incinerators. OSHA identified a total of 320 violations of their regulations. All have been addressed with enforcement actions. USEPA found 75 violations of its regulations, which cover employee training, contingency planning, emergency response and preparedness, and operational procedures. USEPA and your own hazardous waste program are following up on these violations. We also are improving inspection procedures and expertise in the area of incineration and worker protection.

In Illinois, the task force looked at 3 incinerators: Chemical Waste Management (CWM) Inc., Chicago, CWM Trade Waste Incineration, Sauget, and the Mobile incinerator Paxton Avenue Lagoons State cleanup site, Chicago.

I must caution you that this report is not a statement of the safety of hazardous waste incinerators. Its focus is limited to compliance with on-site health and safety requirements. At the facilities inspected, OSHA did not observe evidence of worker overexposure to chemicals that could cause serious harm. However, given public concern over the safety of hazardous waste incineration, the release of this report may spark some controversy.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ RALPH R. BAUER

Valdas V. Adamkus
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

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cc: Mary Gade
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

John Lumpkin, M.D.
Illinois Department of Public Health

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